

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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INFO: RUFHJA/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1280

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, UK, SHUM, CSCE

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA VISITS UK: HIS COMMENTS ON BELGRADE

CSCE MEETING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: LONDON 03808

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FROM BRITISH EMBASSY
BUDAPEST SOME INFORMATION ON FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA'S ATTITUDE
ON CSCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH ARE REPORTED TO SUPPLEMENT
USEFUL CABLE FROM LONDON ON PUJA VISIT TO UK. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS DAVID OWEN, NEW BRITISH FOREIGN
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MINISTER, IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO PUJA STRESSED DESIRE OF
UK GOVERNMENT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ITS PUBLIC OPINION WITH
RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IN RESPONDING TO OWEN, PUJA
SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS TO A POINT. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
NATURE OF WESTERN PRESS AND WOULD NOT RAISE DIFFICULTIES
ABOUT PRESS CRITICISMS OF SOCIALIST STATES ON HUMAN
RIGHTS. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT COMPREHEND STATEMENTS BY

RESPONSIBLE WESTERN GOVERNMENT FIGURES, SOME OF WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. EVIDENTLY, "EVEN THE AMERICANS" WERE SATISFIED WITH HUNGARY'S PERFORMANCE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT. ON OTHER HAND, PUJA WAS CONCERNED THAT FORCES OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE WEST COULD PUSH THEIR GOVERNMENTS TOO FAR AND MIGHT UNDERMINE DETENTE.

3. IN TALKS WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN AND MINISTER OF STATE LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, PUJA MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS WITH RESPECT TO FORTHCOMING BELGRADE MEETING ON CSCE. AT MEETING, HE SAID, EACH COUNTRY SHOULD DESCRIBE WHAT IT HAD DONE TO IMPLEMENT FINAL ACT AND SET FORTH PLANS FOR FUTURE. DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO POISON THE ATMOSPHERE. BELGRADE, HE SAID, ONLY ONE STEP IN LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT. ACT WAS NOT TO BE AMENDED OR NEW AGREEMENTS REACHED AT BELGRADE. MEETING SHOULD LAST ONLY TWO OR THREE MONTHS AND SHOULD BE AT AMBASSADORIAL, OR AT MOST, DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL. PUJA FAVORED EITHER NO PUBLIC STATEMENT OR A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE AT CLOSE OF BELGRADE MEETING. PARTICIPATION OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES SHOULD BE LIMITED AS IT HAD BEEN IN PAST. FINALLY, PUJA REMARKED, NO PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR CSCE IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. BUT HE NOT OPPOSED TO SETTING UP A FEW WORKING GROUPS TO FUNCTION AFTER BELGRADE. IN TWO TO THREE YEARS ANOTHER FOLLOW-UP MEETING MIGHT BE FEASIBLE.

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4. GOH TRYING TO UNILATERALLY IMPLEMENT CSCE, PUJA CLAIMED. ON BASIS ITS RECORD, GOH NOT AFRAID OF ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND BASKET THREE IMPLEMENTATION. AT BELGRADE, PUJA SAID, HUNGARY WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO ITS BILATERAL EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE FINAL ACT.

5. COMMENT: HUNGARY'S POSITION ON FORTHCOMING BELGRADE MEETING WAS FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVELY SET FORTH BY PUJA AND APPEARS TO BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW OF SOVIET POSITION AS RECENTLY GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT (STATE 048023). PUJA REMARK WITH RESPECT BILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION BEARS OUT RECENT STATEMENT BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY TO HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION THAT GOH CONSIDERS THE PRINCIPAL CHANNEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE TO BE EXPLOITING OPPORTUNITIES INHERENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. WHILE GOH NOT STRAYING FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING CONSENSUS AMONG COMMUNIST STATES ON BELGRADE TACTICS,

CLEARLY IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS SENSITIVE OR APPREHENSIVE
ABOUT ITS OWN RECORD ON CIVIL RIGHTS AS DO ITS PARTNERS.
NOTWITHSTANDING, PUJA'S WORRIES THAT THE CURRENT DEBATE
OVER HUMAN RIGHTS MAY JEOPARDIZE DETENTE MAY BE GENUINE.
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Message Attributes

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